

our line back to the run of the creek, and then up on the south side, which was wooded, back to our main line on the brow of the hill. The skirmishing soon became furious all along the line. In falling back our part of the line had to traverse the cleared ground until we began to ascend the slope on the south side of the creek, and the enemy, who rushed to the brow of the hill, poured a destructive fire into us.

After we had gotten on the south side of the creek, the writer, in passing from the left to the right along the line, received a shot in the ankle which disabled him entirely. Fearing capture, he, without waiting for the litter bearers called on his men to carry him back. Oh! how true and good and faithful those men had, under all circumstances, been to him. No sooner than the call was made, three or four good soldiers of his company lifted him and carried him back till the litter-bearers were met. He was then carried by them to the ambulance-station, and thence to the hospital, and there, when his turn came, he was placed on the operating table, and when he woke up his left foot was gone—the surgeons said amputation was necessary.

And so ended his career as an active soldier. Any further history of the regiment is based on information derived from other sources.

The fighting above referred to was preliminary to the great battle of Cold Harbor on the 31st of May and on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of June, in which the Federal losses were awfully heavy. The Confederate loss was comparatively very small. The one was reported at about 1,200, the other about 13,000.

Those who eulogize Gen. Grant have a difficult task in vindicating the orders which caused such fearful losses in this battle. History tells it that he ordered charge after charge and only desisted when his men declined to charge again.

The writer, whilst lying on his cot in the hospital in Richmond, was told by the doctor in charge that some of his old comrades had come in to see him, and when he looked up he saw that it was some of the 6th Regiment,

North Carolina Troops, who were wounded at Cold Harbor. They told him of the awful slaughter of Federals in front of the Confederate lines.

The 2nd Cold Harbor was a decisive battle and virtually closed the overland campaign against Richmond. Gen. Grant was foiled in his effort to get between Lee and Richmond. Grant then decided to transfer his forces to the James River.

About the 12th to 14th of June, when Gen. Grant began to change his base to the James, the cavalry was threatening the line of the railroad towards Gordonsville, and Hunter was moving up the valley. Early's division, to which the 6th regiment belonged, was marched rapidly from the Chickahominy towards Gordonsville, in which section of the country Sheridan's cavalry was raiding.

Hampton's cavalry had checked Sheridan. Early's forces pushed on through the smoking ruins that marked the line of Sheridan's retreat, until near Gordonsville a train was met backing down to carry them to Lynchburg, which place was reached about sunrise on the morning of the 17th. Jumping off the cars, the men were hurriedly marched up the steep streets and out to the field west of the town, and were just in time to save it. The cavalry of Gen. Jackson, sometimes known as "*Mud-wall Jackson*," were being driven back by Hunter's men, who were advancing hilariously. But consternation struck them when they met Lee's infantry.

Then followed the greatest foot-race ever witnessed in war. Back through Liberty, Buford's Gap, and across the valley into and beyond the North Mountain, the despoilers ran, strewing the line of their flight with arms, blankets, knapsacks, and even shoes and hats.

Gen. Hunter, having retreated through West Virginia toward the Ohio, Gen. Early moved rapidly down the valley, the enemy falling back before him until they reached Harper's Ferry and Maryland Heights.

On the 3rd of July Gen. Sigel's force was driven from Martinsburg across the Potomac at Shepherdstown. Gen